

JAMES G. ANDREWS.

FEBRUARY 29, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCUMBER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 7814.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7814) granting an increase of pension to James G. Andrews, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

This soldier, now 79 years of age, served as a private in Company C, Seventh Illinois Infantry, from November 20, 1861, to July 9, 1865, when honorably discharged.

Medical records of the War Department show that he was taken to the regimental hospital December 25, 1862, and returned to duty May 16, 1863.

He is now pensioned under the general law at \$16 per month on account of scurvy and resulting loss of teeth and debility.

A claim for increase of pension, filed in June, 1902, was rejected in February, 1903, upon the ground that his pensioned disabilities did not warrant a higher rate, and a claim on account of additional disabilities, based upon rheumatism and deafness, was rejected in February, 1899, upon the ground of no record of treatment in the War Department, no medical evidence of treatment in the service, and claimant's inability, with the aid of a special examination, to show by competent and satisfactory evidence that said disabilities originated during his military service.

The action of the Pension Bureau rejecting the claim for increase of pension and the claim for additional disabilities was affirmed by Assistant Secretary Miller under date of May 16, 1903.

In support of the claim on account of the additional disabilities, the testimony was filed of Captain Roberts, of the beneficiary's company, who swore positively that he contracted rheumatism in the service, and several comrades of the soldier also testified that they believed that the soldier had rheumatism in the service.

Lay testimony, filed and obtained upon special examination, shows that upon his return from the service the soldier was suffering from scurvy, rheumatism, and deafness, and medical testimony shows treatment for rheumatism since 1870.

Medical testimony filed in the Pension Bureau in 1902 shows that the beneficiary was then suffering from weak eyes, piles, rheumatism, kidney trouble, catarrh, deafness, and general debility, rendering him a physical wreck, with entire loss of teeth and partial loss of the lower jaw on the left side, etc.

A medical examination of November 28, 1894, shows the soldier's general appearance to be that of feeble health, figure stooped, gait slow and unsteady, body poorly

nourished, all the teeth missing, motion in shoulder joints limited one-half, all muscles soft and flabby, heart's action irregular with a well-marked mitral murmur, and slight deafness in both ears, and the board of surgeons then stated that he was totally disabled for the performance of manual labor.

The last medical examination, made October 8, 1902, found him to be suffering from piles, rheumatism, senile debility, deafness, and disease of heart, and rated him \$30 for the combined disabilities.

The evidence in this case clearly shows that the rheumatism from which the soldier is now suffering was the result of his military service, in view of which an increase of his pension to \$30 per month is warranted.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

